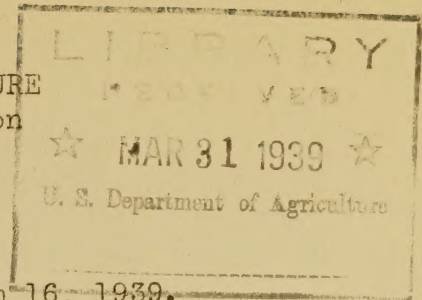


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Adjustment Administration  
Washington, D. C.

*No. Cent. Div.*



March 16, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL STATE CHAIRMEN

Re: Cooperation of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration with the State Game and Fish Departments in the Conservation of Wildlife.

A wildlife conference was held in Washington on January 9, 10, and 11, 1939. This conference was held under the auspices of the Bureau of Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture, and representatives of the State Game and Fish Departments from States of Michigan, Ohio, Missouri, Iowa, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina, were present. In addition, representatives of practically all other interested divisions of the Department of Agriculture were present, including representatives of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Bureau of Soil Conservation Service, Extension Service, and the Forestry Service.

The main object of this conference concerned the inclusion of wildlife benefits as purposes of soil-building practices of the agricultural conservation program. Since the conference was held after the release of the 1939 Farm Program, no changes were recommended for the inclusion of additional soil-building practices beneficial to wildlife in the program. A number of changes were recommended for including additional soil-building practices beneficial to wildlife in the 1940 Agricultural Conservation Program. A copy of these suggested changes and recommendations is attached.

We should like to point out that the 1939 Agricultural Conservation Program may gain several advantages by cooperation with the Bureau of Biological Survey in the conservation of wildlife. (1) Through the efforts of State representatives of the wildlife program there may be more soil-building practices carried out on farms. (2) Through the publicity and educational organization of wildlife representatives, the AAA may benefit by the encouragement given to farmers to participate in the agricultural conservation program. It will be seen that if sportsmen in cities, towns, and villages, are aware of the provisions of the 1939 Farm Program, which encourages the conservation of wildlife, their attitude toward participation in the program will be materially improved. They will be more likely to





bring land which they own into the program and to encourage others whom they meet in business associations to do the same. (3) We believe that county and community committeemen will also have an additional talking point to encourage farmers to participate in the agricultural conservation program and to carry out certain soil-building practices. Those active in administering the 1939 Agricultural Conservation Program should take advantage of every opportunity to obtain sportsman's and consumer's interests as well as farmer's interest.

We should also like to point out the following ways in which soil-building practices in the 1939 Program specifically aid in the conservation of wildlife. These soil-building practices include the following, which are designated under Section 7, of Bulletin NCR-301:

Practice (5) - When cover crops are growing on the land, or are left on the land and not pastured or harvested, this practice provides food and cover for wildlife.

Practices (6), (7), (8), (9), and (10) - Seedings of legumes and grasses provide food and cover and increase nesting areas.

Practice (11) - Improvement of depleted pastures by reseeding improves the nesting grounds and increases the food and cover for wildlife.

Practice (12) - Deferred grazing on pasture gives wildlife greater benefit in food and cover and increases nesting ground value.

Practice (13) - Terrace outlets, when properly seeded, provide food and cover for wildlife.

Practice (14) - Reservoirs and dams increase the water available for fish and like game, and raise the water table for a greater growth of food and cover for land animals and wild fowls.

Practice (15) - Rows of shrub windbreak for protection of muck land will provide cover for wildlife, and the fruit, such as berries or nuts, will provide food for wildlife.

Practice (17) - Strip cropping provides ideal nesting grounds in and near food for wildlife.

Practice (20) - Planting of trees and shrubs provides cover and nesting places, and the fruit, such as nuts and berries, from trees and shrubs provides food for wildlife.

Practice (23) - Nongrazing of wood lots permits the growth of additional food and provides cover for wildlife. It also permits nesting and reproduction of wildlife to go on unmolested during the nongrazing period.





Additional practices applicable only in the wind erosion area of Nebraska and South Dakota include

Practice (27) - Leaving stalks of sorghums and other crops on land provides both food and cover for the conservation of wildlife.

In addition, all restoration land provides additional food cover, and nesting places for wildlife. Also, under the Range Conservation Program in the States of Nebraska and South Dakota, many of the range building practices are also beneficial to wildlife.

It may be noted that the main recommendations of the representatives in the wildlife conference, as indicated in the attached recommendations, is to include specifically in the farm program the "conservation of wildlife," as well as conservation of the soil and forestry.

We should be glad to have your reaction to the particular recommendations made by the conference. We should also be glad to receive whatever other suggestions you have for aiding the conservation of wildlife through the 1940 Farm Program. You may wish to call this communication to the attention of other persons in your State who may be interested in it.

/s/ Claude R. Wickard,

Claude R. Wickard,  
Director,  
North Central Division.

Enclosure



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